

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder for feeding an original, comprising:

a reading portion having a reading position for reading the original;

a platen roller for transporting the original at the reading portion;

guide means arranged relative to the platen roller to form a curved original reading path together with the platen roller;

regulating means for forming a space with a predetermined distance to the platen roller in a direction away from the ~~plate~~ platen roller; and

pressing means for pressing the guide means to the platen roller so that the original moves the guide means toward a side opposite to the platen roller when the original enters between the platen roller and the guide means.

2. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, further comprising a platen at which the reading portion is disposed, said guide means being located between the platen and the platen roller, and said regulating means forming the space between the platen roller and the platen.

3. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said platen roller is disposed at a position away from the reading position in a ~~direction that the platen roller transports the original~~ the original reading path.

4. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 3, wherein said platen roller is disposed at an upstream side of relative to the reading position in ~~the~~ a direction that the platen roller transports the original.

5. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 4, further comprising first transport means disposed at the upstream side of relative to the platen roller in the direction that the platen roller transports the original for transferring the original to the reading position, said platen roller being disposed between the first ~~the~~ transport means and the reading position.

6. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 5, further comprising second transport means for transferring the original transported by the platen roller from the reading position.

7. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, wherein said guide means is formed in a flexible transparent film member.

8. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 1, further comprising a guide member movable freely for pressing the original against the guide means at the reading position.

9. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 7, wherein said pressing means comprises a fastening member for fastening one end of the transparent film member, and supporting means for bending and supporting the transparent film member so that the transparent film member is elastically pressed against the platen roller.

10. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 7, wherein said pressing means comprise a fastening member for fastening one end of the transparent film member, and tension application means for applying tension to the transparent film member to press against the platen roller.

11. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 2, wherein said platen roller is supported at a predetermined position above the platen.

12. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder for feeding an original, comprising:

a reading portion having a reading position for reading the original;

a platen roller disposed at a position away from the reading position in a predetermined direction and transporting the original at the reading position in the predetermined direction;

transparent flexible guide means arranged relative to the platen roller to form a curved original reading path together with the platen roller; and

pressing means for pressing the transparent flexible guide means against the platen roller.

13. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder according to claim 12, wherein said platen roller is disposed at an upstream side ~~of~~ relative to the reading position in ~~the~~ a predetermined direction that the platen roller transports the original.

14. (currently amended) An automatic document feeder for feeding an original, comprising:

a reading portion having a reading position for reading the original;

transport means for transferring the original to the reading position of the reading portion;

backup guide means arranged along a direction that the transport means transports the original;

guide means situated adjacent to the backup guide means to form an original reading path together with the backup guide means;

regulating means for forming a space having a predetermined distance outside the guide means at a side opposite to the backup guide means; and

pressing means for pressing the guide means against the backup guide means so that the original moves the guide means toward the side opposite to the guide means when the original enters between the backup guide means and the guide means.

15. (original) An automatic document feeder according to claim 14, further comprising a platen at which the reading portion is disposed; said backup guide means being arranged to face the platen; said guide means being arranged between the platen and the backup guide means; and said regulating means forming the space between the backup guide means and the platen.